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and vague in its character. It is supposed to be a relation based on contract; but the commentators on the law class it always under the law of persons, with those of husband and wife, parent and child, guardian and ward — clearly relations of *status*.

The terms of the contract are rarely formulated, and its interpretation is infrequently sought of the courts, since the nature of the service would prevent its being enforced in terms, and the pecuniary weakness of the employee makes it impossible for her to go into court and prevents her being brought in as defendant in an action for damages. The facts, too, are very difficult to obtain. Nowhere are the economies of the household more jealously guarded than in connection with the housing and treatment of the employees; and if the conditions of her life are such as to humiliate her, the maid will not willingly admit the fact to outsiders.

The investigator seems forced, then, to make use of the employment agencies in order to obtain bodies of fact great enough to promise reliable conclusions. For investigations of this character Miss Kellor is peculiarly fitted, and the result of her investigations as shown in this volume can only arouse interest and stimulate inquiry. The topics she treats on the basis of an investigation of 834 employment agencies are: business conditions and methods, responsibility for immorality and vice, office hardships, new movements, and remedies. A number of states have enacted legislation attempting to control these agencies for the purpose of protecting both employer and employee against fraud, and the employee against the temptations of criminal suggestion. It may be that out of such investigations as these undertaken by the Inter-Municipal League may come propositions for more effective control of the agencies, and intelligent, practicable schemes for legislation regulating and interpreting the S. P. B. labor contract itself.

Modern Socialism. By R. C. K. Ensor. London: Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, 1904. 8vo, pp. xxxvii + 388.

This volume is in the main a compilation. The original contribution of the editor is embodied in an introduction, in which he makes a brief review of the socialist movement as it appears in various European countries at the present time. The author of the introduction disclaims any purpose to trace the history of socialism, or even to present all phases of socialistic thought. His emphasis is on *political* socialism of today. He is not concerned with the "picturesque

crudities" of past socialistic theory, but with socialism as "a faith whose part in politics was never so great as it is today nor ever seemed surer of an important future."

As may be inferred from this quotation, his treatment of the subject is very sympathetic, and the tone of the work suggests a propogandist motive.

Continental countries are classified into those which have representative democratic governments and those which have not; while Belgium, Holland, and Sweden have governments which are parliamentary, but not democratically representative and constitute a third class. Manifestly, the position of the socialists in countries where the more democratic institutions prevail is different from that held by members of the "faith" under governments which are not directly amenable to their influence.

The main portion of the book consists of articles or addresses by sixteen prominent socialists representing different phases of their doctrine and of their relations to government. Most of these writers are contemporary, though Marx has a place. By this plan the creed is presented in fairly compact and convenient form, while the writers chosen are such as give to the presentation the stamp of authority. The socialists indeed have their day in court. Ten chapters are given to the reprint of as many programs, constitutions, and election addresses of organized bodies.

The final chapter is taken from the novel M. Bergeret à Paris, by Anatole France, where the novelist points to a bright future when, "after selfishness and greed have toiled for centuries," the wealth of the world has become common to all mankind—a state of society in which collectivism will have fully supplanted private property in the means of production.

MURRAY S. WILDMAN.

Women in the Printing Trades: A Sociological Study. Edited by J. RAMSAY MACDONALD. London: P. S. King & Son, 1904. 8vo, pp. xii + 296.

It must be a great satisfaction to all who are interested in the problem—for such it must be called—of the gainful occupation of women, to find any phase of it treated in such a thoroughgoing scientific way as is the work of women in the printing trades in the volume under review. For the subject of the employment of women